

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 SY-05 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 /079 W  
-----129119 150637Z /11

R 142025Z NOV 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1192  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY ROME

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (☒) In Full **DECONTROL**

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] SANTIAGO 8749

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OR-P SHUM, PINT, CI, AR, IT  
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: REACTION TO FURTHER TOWNLEY  
"REVELATIONS"

REF: SANTIAGO 8703

1. LOCAL MEDIA REPORTED OF JERRY O'LEARY'S NOVEMBER 12  
"WASHINGTON STAR" STORY ASSERTING THAT MICHAEL TOWNLEY  
HAS LINKED EX-DINA CHIEF MANUAL CONTRERAS TO THE 1974  
ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL PRATS IN BUENOS AIRES AND THE  
1975 SHOOTING OF BERNARDO LEIGHTON IN ROME. MOST PAPERS  
CARRIED WIRESERVICE PRECIS; TABLOID "LA SEQUUNDA" GAVE  
GREATERPLAY.

2. TOWNLEY'S CHILEAN LAWYER SAID TOWNLEY CATEGORICALLY  
DENIED TELLING USG OFFICIALS THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED  
IN THE TWO ATTACKS.

3. SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT VIDAL, IN RESPONSE  
TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS, SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT COMMENT  
ON "RUMORS AND UNFOUNDED ASSERTIONS". HE SAID THE  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE  
COURTS, BUT THAT QUESTIONS DEALING WITH JUDICIAL

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MATTERS WOULD BE ANSWERED OFFICIALLY ONLY WHEN THEY CAME UP THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS. VIDAL SAID THAT TOWNLEY IS ENGAGED IN PLEA BARGAINING BASED ON THE VALUE OF HIS STATEMENTS AND THAT "WHEN THERE IS NO PROOF, ANTI-GOC FORCES REVERT TO RUMORS, WHICH THE GOC WILL NOT DEIGN TO ANSWER".

4. ELSEWHERE THE PRESS REPORTS THAT SUPREME COURT BORQUEZ HAS BEGUN QUESTIONING FOUR CHILEAN MILITARY MEN WHOSE NAMES CAME UP DURING THE TESTIMONY OF CONTRERAS AND HIS EX-OPERATIONS CHIEF ESPINOZA.  
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